

finestration operation and its effects on otosclerosis, and the inclusion of penicillin in the chapter on chemotherapy, have brought the text up to date. It gives the busy practitioner a compact source of guidance in the diseases of the specialty and provides the student with the theoretical background for his work in the ear, nose, and throat department. H. A.

**MANUAL OF PUBLIC HEALTH: HYGIENE.** By J. R. Currie, M.A.(Oxon.), M.D., LL.D.(Glas.), D.P.H.(Birm.), F.R.C.P.(Edin.), and A. G. Mearns, M.D., B.Sc.(Public Health), D.P.H.(Glas.), F.R.S.(Edin.). Third Edition. Edinburgh. E. & S. Livingstone Ltd.

"CURRIE AND MEARNS" has now been a standard textbook in public health for ten years and it is the lineal descendant of Professor Currie's Textbook, first published in 1930. The outstanding feature of the book has always been a clarity of presentation, which reflects not only the careful work of the authors, but a very high standard of printing and of presentation of illustrations by the publishers.

In any comprehensive book on preventive medicine, the author has to select what seems to him the most important material from a huge literature, embracing not only medicine, but sociology and law. After all, the subject is concerned with applications of all science to the health of individuals and groups. It is inevitable, therefore, that different textbooks will choose different material and give varying emphasis.

For undergraduate studies, such a book as this, if containing more information than necessary, will, nevertheless, stimulate the more thoughtful and provide a reference book for all. The post-graduate candidate for the Diploma in Public Health requires a skeleton on which he can build. Currie and Mearns fulfils both these needs admirably.

It must be open to question whether the advantages of comprehensiveness outweigh the disadvantages of undue compression in the inclusion of certain subjects which stand apart in a book of this kind. The two subjects which have suffered most in this book are genetics and statistics. It is, of course, convenient in a given university to have these compressed accounts and to expound them in lectures, but they are very succinct for the general reader.

Two other criticisms might be levelled. First, probably the time is past when a separate chapter is usually devoted to "The Social Vista." The whole trend of medical thought is to consider the social factors in relation to every health problem. Second, the mass of social and medical legislation makes it inevitable that every textbook is behind by the time it is printed. This is probably the explanation of one or two failures to point to changes in law and administration.

Such criticisms must not, however, be allowed to distract attention from the value of this excellent book, which increases with each edition.

The section on industrial medicine is particularly good and well illustrated. The section on presentation of data by pictorial methods in the statistics chapter is unique in such a textbook. Certainly no other textbook can rival it in the numbers and clarity of tables and illustrations.

A. C. S.

**AIDS TO ORGANIC CHEMISTRY.** By Stanley F. Smith, M.B., B.S. Third Edition, revised by Ian Leslie, B.Sc. Pp. 127.

This small booklet, which has now been brought up to date in a third edition, presents a summarized account of a course of organic chemistry suitable for medical students. It does not claim to compete with the standard textbook, but, taken along with his lecture course, it should prove invaluable as an *aide-memoire* for the busy student preparing for his examination. S. A.

**THYROID ENLARGEMENT AND OTHER CHANGES RELATED TO THE MINERAL CONTENT OF DRINKING WATER, WITH A NOTE ON GOITRE PROPHYLAXIS** (Medical Research Council Memorandum No. 18).

By Margaret M. Murray, J. A. Ryle, Beatrice W. Simpson, and Dagmar C. Wilson. London: His Majesty's Stationery Office, 1948. 9d. net.

This investigation was stimulated by the observation of a high incidence of goitre by Dr. D. C.